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APR 27 1957
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1957

VOLUME 74 NUMBER 16

CONTENTS

PAGE

COTTON

U.S. Cotton Exports in Running Bales 20
India's Cotton Exports Drop Sharply 20
Australia Imports More U.S. Cotton 22

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

New Delhi Milk Plan Set Up 6
Finland Trying To Reduce Dairy Products Surplus 7
U.K. Canned Milk Exports Heavy in 1956 7
Netherlands Dairy Exports Generally Up in 1956 8
Dairy Situation in Chile 8
Japanese Dairy Industry Continues To Expand 9
Belgium Now Subsidizing Egg Exports 10

FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS

Venezuela Still in Deficit Vegetable Oil Position 16
India Reports Commitments for Castor Oil Exports to East Europe 17
Indonesian Copra Exports Up in 1956 17
Pakistan's Rape and Mustard Acreage Down Slightly 18
Philippine Copra Exports in 1957 Expected To Be High 26

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

First Florida Valencias on U.K. Market 13
Australia Increases Apple and Pear Export Charges 13
Mexican Strawberry Crop Looks Good 13
Ireland Revokes Special Levy on Oranges 13
Spanish Dried Apricot Exports Up 14
New Zealand To Issue Import Licenses for U.S. Dried Apricots 14
Fruit Crops in U.K. Get Early Start 14
Thompson Seedless Raisins Popular in New Zealand 14
Spain Increases Returns to Citrus Exporters 19
Potato Crop Large in Argentina 19
South African Deciduous Fruit Exports Rise 19

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, SEEDS, AND FEEDS

Irish Wheat Farmers Received $2.03 per Bushel in 1956-57 15
U.S. 1956-57 Wheat Exports Estimated at 130 Million Bushels Above Year Ago 15
U.S. Rice Exports Maintain High Level 23
Canada's July-March Wheat and Flour Exports Estimated at 220 Million Bushels 31
World Wheat Trade in 1956-57 Expected To Exceed Previous Record 6

(Continued on following page)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

CONTENTS

(Continued from Cover Page)

Page

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS
India Authorizes Wool Exports.................................... 10
Competition Brisk at London Wool Sales........................... 10
Australia Revises Beef Export Standards.......................... 10
Ireland's Livestock Numbers Likely To Increase................... 11
Portugal Combatting "Blue Tongue" Disease........................ 11
Panama Prohibits Imports of Chilled or Frozen Beef............... 12
Kenya Reports Rare Type of Foot-and-Mouth Disease................ 12
Canada Revises Farrowing Estimates Upward........................ 12
Northern Rhodesia Imports Meat from Bechuanaland................. 12

TOBACCO
Surinam Increases Cigarette Duty................................. 3
Malaya Modifies Excise Tax on Domestic-Grown Tobacco............. 3
Renewed Cuban-West German Trade Agreement Includes Tobacco....... 3
Weather Damages 1957 Indian Flue-Cured Crop...................... 3
France Imports Less Tobacco During 1956.......................... 4
U.S. Tobacco Imports Drop in February............................ 4

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to assist the foreign marketing of U. S. farm products by keeping the nation's agricultural interests informed of current crop and livestock developments abroad, foreign trends in production, prices, supplies, and consumption of farm products, and other factors affecting world agricultural trade. Circulation is free to persons in the U. S.

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SURINAM INCREASES CIGARETTE DUTY

The import duty on cigarettes entering Surinam was reportedly increased by the Department of Finance, effective January 14, 1957. The duty on cigarettes was raised from 1.25 cents per cigarette plus 37 percent ad valorem to 1.75 cents each plus 50 percent of the value. United States cigarette exports to Surinam during the past 2 years averaged about 13.5 million pieces.

MALAYA MODIFIES EXCISE TAX ON DOMESTIC-GROWN TOBACCO

The Federal Legislative Council in Malaya at its March meeting amended the excise duty on locally-produced tobacco. The new excise tax on uncured leaf tobacco used in "daun rokok" manufacture was reduced from $.50 Malayan (16.5 U. S. cents) per pound to $.04 Malayan (1.32 U. S. cents). This leaf tobacco is purchased by manufacturers in the green and uncured state for the manufacture of a local cigarette. Testimony indicated that cured tobacco represented only 8 percent of green weight; therefore, the excise duty should be equivalent to $.50 Malayan a pound for cured tobacco.

The Federal Government pressed for this modification in excise duties to prevent further collapse of the local tobacco industry, seriously affected by the imposition of the $.50 Malayan per pound excise tax in November 1956. It was reported that 12 factories had been forced to close since the $.50 Malayan per pound duty went into effect.

RENEWED CUBAN-WEST GERMAN TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES TOBACCO

The Trade Agreement of May 1953 between Cuba and West Germany was modified and extended for 3 years following the conclusion of negotiations held in Havana on March 5, 1957. The new agreement is effective from March 1, 1957 through February 27, 1960 and includes Cuban leaf tobacco as one of the items available for export in exchange for West German goods. Cuba's leaf tobacco exports to West Germany during 1955 and 1956 amounted to 2.6 and 1.6 million pounds, respectively.

WEATHER DAMAGES 1957 INDIAN FLUE-CURED CROP

The 1957 crop of flue-cured tobacco in India is reportedly of lower than average quality. Heavy rains and other unfavorable weather conditions resulted in the production of much Virginia tobacco that is unsuitable for flue-curing. This could cause a serious marketing problem in view of the large surplus of low grade flue-cured tobacco in other Asiatic countries.

FRANCE IMPORTS LESS TOBACCO DURING 1956

France imported 76.5 million pounds of unmanufactured tobacco during 1956 -- nearly 10 million pounds less than in 1955, and about 22 million below 1954. Most of the decline occurred in imports from the United States, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Italy, and Turkey. Madagascar and the Cameroons also supplied smaller quantities than in 1955, while imports from Algeria were slightly larger in 1956. Greece and Yugoslavia were the only other countries supplying larger shipments than in 1955.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: France, imports by country of origin, 1954-1956

Country of origin	1954	1955	1956 1/
	- - - - - 1,000 pounds	- - - - -	
United States	12,545	8,924	6,338
Brazil	3,142	6,157	2,002
Dominican Republic	723	3,250	1,565
Colombia	2,808	2,079	2,055
Italy	2,225	3,338	2,769
Turkey	5,767	6,089	3,309
Greece	14,959	8,871	12,191
Yugoslavia	5,957	7,604	8,091
Algeria	27,895	19,087	19,583
Madagascar	12,617	9,603	8,325
Cameroons	2,654	2,394	2,209
Others	7,038	8,363	8,043
Total	98,330	85,759	76,480

1/ Preliminary.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS DROP IN FEBRUARY

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in February 1957 totaled 27.1 million pounds, valued at $17.9 million. This was a 7 percent drop below February exports a year ago, totaling 29.2 million pounds.

There were increases in exports of Virginia fire-cured, Maryland, One Sucker and cigar binder. Exports of most other types declined. Exports of flue-cured tobacco to the United Kingdom in February 1957 amounted to 5.7 million pounds and to West Germany 4.7 million pounds.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the first 8 months of the 1956-57 fiscal year totaled 368.4 million pounds, compared with exports of 453.6 million pounds for the first 8 months of the 1955-56 fiscal year. Most of the drop occurred in exports of flue-cured tobacco.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, January and February 1956 and 1957, with percent change
(Export weight)

Type	February		Percent change	January-February		Percent change
	1956	1957		1956	1957	
	1,000 pounds		Percent	1,000 pounds		Percent
Flue-cured	20,669	20,542	- 0.6	59,532	44,934	- 24.5
Burley	2,337	1,743	- 25.4	3,846	4,112	+ 6.9
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn.	3,841	2,458	- 36.0	5,771	3,533	- 38.8
Virginia fire-cured 1/	464	487	+ 5.0	1,288	934	- 27.5
Maryland	227	632	+178.4	2,515	1,324	- 47.4
Green River	307	177	- 42.3	373	383	+ 2.7
One Sucker	4	95	---	4	610	---
Black Fat	330	225	- 31.8	500	315	- 37.0
Cigar Wrapper	307	224	- 27.0	638	418	- 34.5
Cigar Binder	50	91	+ 82.0	95	157	+ 65.3
Cigar Filler	68	29	- 57.4	70	29	- 58.6
Other	547	366	- 33.1	745	707	- 5.1
Total	29,151	27,069	- 7.1	75,377	57,456	- 23.8
Declared Value (million dollars)	18.0	17.9	- 0.6	47.0	38.9	- 17.2

1/ Includes sun-cured.
Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of tobacco products in February 1957 amounted to $5.4 million, an increase of 29 percent over the same period a year ago. Exports of cigarettes increased for the month of February while exports of cigars and cheroots and smoking tobacco in bulk dropped.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, January and February 1956 and 1957, with percent change

Products	February		Percent change	January-February		Percent change
	1956	1957		1956	1957	
Cigars and Cheroots (1,000 pieces)	937	528	-43.6	1,374	1,068	-22.3
Cigarettes (million pieces)	960	1,337	+39.3	2,106	2,509	+19.1
Smoking tobacco in bulk (1,000 pounds)	429	150	-65.0	1,183	397	-66.4
Declared value 1/ (million dollars)	4.2	5.4	+28.6	9.1	10.2	+12.1

1/ Includes value of tobacco manufactures not separately shown.
Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

WORLD WHEAT TRADE IN 1956-57 EXPECTED TO EXCEED PREVIOUS RECORD

World trade in wheat may reach an unprecedented 1,150 million bushels in 1956-57, more than 80 million above the previous record of 1,066 million bushels exported in 1951-52. Exports at the level of 1,150 million would represent an increase of 11 percent over 1955-56 and 8 percent over exports in 1951-52.

United States exports for 1956-57 are now estimated at 475 million bushels, considerably above the level of last year. Wheat exports from Canada and Argentina are estimated at about the same as in 1955-56, while Australia is expected to increase exports moderately over a year ago. Exports from other countries, including the Soviet Union, Syria, Sweden, Uruguay, and the minor exporting countries, are expected to be about 150 million bushels in 1956-57. The Soviet Union, most important of this group, has export commitments totaling 150 million bushels and is expected to fulfill most of them.

The principal reason for the expected record world wheat trade in 1956-57 was the poor 1956 winter wheat crop in Europe, which resulted in large increases in wheat exports to that area. Other important factors increasing exports this year are the United States special export programs, an apparent general increase in the consumption of wheat in most areas of the world, and the return of the Soviet Union as a significant exporter.

NEW DELHI MILK PLAN SET UP

With the assistance of a New Zealand dairy team, a plan for organizing and developing the New Delhi, India, milk supply is nearly completed. New Zealand, in addition to providing technical assistance, will contribute $3,220,000 in plants, cash, and equipment. The plans call for pasteurization, canning, and bottling equipment with a capacity of 575,000 pounds daily. Most of the milk will be produced in areas around New Delhi, and some milk colonies will be established near the capital so that cows may be moved out of the city.

Indian milk production is increasing, but the growth rate is not keeping up with that of the population. Increase of milk production appears to be limited by shortage of feed, resulting, in part, from the large number of unproductive cows. Due to religious customs and laws against slaughtering, cattle numbers have increased rapidly. If India is to attain an adequate level of milk and milk products consumption, large imports of dairy products will probably be required for a number of years. Purchasing power of the people is reported to be slowly improving; the greatest present impediment to trade is the acute shortage of foreign currency.

FINLAND TRYING TO REDUCE DAIRY PRODUCTS SURPLUS

Due to increased milk production in Finland, butter and cheese production have increased above domestic demand; and Finland has been exporting these products since the middle of 1956. The domestic wholesale price of butter, about 92 cents per pound, is far above the export price of 33 cents for shipments to the United Kingdom. The 59-cent difference is paid by the government. Finnish butter does not command prices comparable to those for equivalent quality from other countries, as exporters cannot guarantee steady future shipments.

In an attempt to bring production of butter and cheese back in line with consumption, the Finnish Government has reduced the guaranteed export price, lowered the retail price, and limited the sales of feed concentrates to milk producers, especially imported oil feeds. The guaranteed export price is now 81.5 cents per pound for salted butter, 88.4 cents for unsalted butter, and from 61.7 to 70.5 cents for various types of cheeses. The retail price was reduced by about 2.4 percent to stimulate domestic consumption.

Cheese factories agreed to decrease output by 10 percent during the first quarter of 1957, but, since there was not an equivalent decrease in milk production, the extra milk was diverted to butter production. The United Kingdom will probably continue to absorb most of this surplus; however, orders from Germany, Poland, and Rumania for 2,250 tons of butter are being filled now.

U. K. CANNED MILK EXPORTS HEAVY IN 1956

The United Kingdom continued to be a heavy exporter of canned milk in 1956, shipping 84.4 million pounds during the year. However, shipments were down about 9 percent from 1955, when total canned milk exports were 93.0 million pounds.

Exports of condensed whole milk in 1956 amounted to 56.0 million pounds. Of this quantity, 36.0 million pounds went to Malaya and Singapore, and 9.0 million pounds to Jamaica. Other Commonwealth countries took the bulk of the remainder. Shipments of evaporated whole milk were 22.8 million pounds. Principal markets for evaporated whole milk were Malta (5.2 million pounds), Malaya and Singapore (4.2 million pounds), West Germany (2.9 million pounds), and the Philippine Republic (1.4 million pounds). Exports of condensed skimmed milk during 1956 were approximately 6.0 million pounds, most of which went to Commonwealth countries, principally Malta(1.7 million pounds), Hong Kong, and Malaya and Singapore (approximately 1.0 million pounds each).

NETHERLANDS DAIRY EXPORTS GENERALLY UP IN 1956

Export trade in dairy products from the Netherlands increased in 1956 over 1955 with the exception of butter, which at 69.6 million pounds was 29 percent lower than in 1955. Shipments to all principal markets were smaller, especially those to Belgium, West Germany, and East Germany. The United Kingdom continued to be the principal outlet, although exports of 20.8 million pounds to that market were the smallest since 1952 and only about one-quarter of 1938 exports of 78.6 million pounds.

The largest gain in exports was in canned milk, which at 558.0 million pounds was more than 13 percent above 1955. Trade with the principal Far Eastern markets, mainly Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippine Republic and Malaya, was heavier than in 1955. Condensed whole milk exports accounted for the bulk of the increase, although shipments of evaporated whole milk and condensed skimmed milk were also above 1955. Exports of condensed whole milk (322.5 million pounds) and evaporated whole milk (187.8 million pounds) were well above prewar level of 134.7 million pounds and 57.8 million pounds, respectively, but those of condensed skimmed milk (47.7 million pounds) were considerably below 1938 exports of 142.8 million pounds.

Cheese exports in 1956 amounted to 200.4 million pounds and showed a slight gain over 1955. The increase was mostly in shipments to West Germany.

Shipments of dried milk (both dried whole and dried skimmed) continued to increase and in 1956 totaled 87.2 million pounds, compared with 74.3 million pounds in 1955. Dried whole milk powder amounted to 66.0 million pounds, for which Belgium, Venezuela, and West Germany remained the principal markets. Exports of dried skimmed milk to India were twice as great as in 1955 and offset a decline in exports to Denmark and the United Kingdom.

DAIRY SITUATION IN CHILE

Milk production in Chile during 1956 is estimated at 1,594 million pounds, approximately 2 percent below the level of the preceding year. Conditions for milk production in 1956 were unfavorable throughout the country. Because the dry winter in the north made good forage scarce, milk production declined there. The south suffered from extremes of weather--an unusually long drought, and then late spring frosts which affected pastures and reduced milk production in that area.

Butter production in 1956 at 13.4 million pounds was down a little more than 1 percent from 1955, and cheese production at 27.8 million pounds was down 12 percent. These reductions are largely attributed to relatively better prices obtained for milk for fluid use and for condensery products.

Condensed milk output in Chile totaled 29.4 million pounds, an increase of more than 16 percent over 1955. This rise was due to the fact that plants paid a higher price for condensery milk than for any other dairy product. Much of the population has been purchasing condensed milk in preference to fresh milk, because of the increasing price of fresh milk and because they think that condensed milk goes further. Evaporated milk is produced on a much smaller scale than condensed milk. Production in 1956 amounted to 798,000 pounds compared with 756,000 pounds in 1955.

Output of dry whole milk declined from 3.9 million pounds in 1955 to 3.3 million pounds in 1956. Output of nonfat solids was the same for both years--approximately 1.0 million pounds.

Production conditions in the opening months of 1957 have not been favorable for milk production. Three frosts in January and February in the south caused some loss of forage crops and also affected the growth of pastures. Feed supplies probably will be short during the coming winter.

JAPANESE DAIRY INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Japanese milk production totaled 2,543 million pounds in 1956, 15 percent over the previous year and a new record output for that country. Encouraged by the government, an increasing number of Japanese farmers are keeping small herds of dairy cattle as a supplemental enterprise. Based on this trend, 1957 production is forecast at 2,850 million pounds.

Factory output of all dairy products increased in 1956, but gains were particularly apparent in condensery products. Sweetened condensed milk production climbed from 79.4 million pounds in 1955 to 102.4 million pounds in 1956. Respective figures for evaporated milk for the same years were 8.3 and 12.0 million pounds. Dried whole milk output rose from 4.8 million pounds in 1955 to 11.2 million pounds in 1956. Nonfat dry milk production totaled almost 9.7 million pounds, about 100,000 pounds above that of 1955.

Butter production in 1956 totaled 17.1 million pounds, a 6-percent rise over 1955. Cheese output of 4.3 million pounds was up 60 percent.

Year-end stocks were heavier than usual as a result of the sharp rise in dairy output. No concern was reported, however, and increased demand is expected to draw the stocks into trade channels during 1957.

BELGIUM NOW SUBSIDIZING EGG EXPORTS

Belgium's Ministry of Agriculture began subsidizing egg exports February 27. Subsidy amounts to one-half United States cent per egg, to be distributed through the agricultural fund. The European egg market is at present over-supplied.

INDIA AUTHORIZES WOOL EXPORTS

The Indian government has authorized export of raw wool during the April-to-September period of 1957. Exports will be permitted by established as well as new exporters, as in the previous period. The total quantity to be released has not yet been announced.

India normally exports approximately 30 million pounds of wool (greasy basis) per calendar year, mainly to the United Kingdom and the United States.

COMPETITION BRISK AT LONDON WOOL SALES

The most recent London wool sales closed on a strong tone that had prevailed throughout the series. Competition was brisk, both from home trade and the Continent. In the closing sales 64's - 70's medium fleeces brought $1.72 per pound, clean basis; 56's fine crossbred and 46's crossbred were quoted at $1.21 and $1.00 per pound, respectively.

AUSTRALIA REVISES BEEF EXPORT STANDARDS

Australia has recently revised its export regulations for beef in an effort to maintain Australian beef's reputation on the United Kingdom market. Under the new regulations all frozen hindquarters weighing over 210 pounds will be boned before export. In addition, any quarters, regardless of weight, will be boned if they are deemed by a Commonwealth meat inspector to be over-finished.

Faced with competition from fresh home-killed beef and chilled Argentine and New Zealand beef, Australian frozen beef has been selling slowly and at unsatisfactory prices on the United Kingdom market. An Australian delegation which studied marketing in the United Kingdom last year recommended to the Australian Meat Board that export beef be of lighter weight and less finish to conform more closely with United Kingdom demand. The Board's recent action to revise export regulations is not considered drastic, as Argentina places heavy price penalties on all quarters weighing over 130 pounds. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, March 11, 1957.)

IRELAND'S LIVESTOCK NUMBERS LIKELY TO INCREASE

Livestock numbers in Ireland are expected to increase for all species except horses during 1957. Cattle numbers in January 1957 were 1 percent below those of the previous year. Lower prices received in the United Kingdom market during 1956 for fat cattle and beef did not encourage expansion of the cattle industry. However, recent signs that the U. K. market for live cattle is strengthening and the possibility of new markets in Europe have encouraged Irish farmers to plan increases in their herds.

Sheep numbers in January were up 3 percent over January 1956 and are expected to increase moderately during 1957.

Hog numbers in early 1957 were 10 percent above those of 1956. Sharp increases in the number of bred sows and in young pigs indicate heavier slaughter in late 1957 and in 1958.

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS: Ireland, January 1953-57

Type	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Cattle......	3,872	4,006	4,484	4,070	4,022
Sheep.......	2,121	2,226	2,369	2,484	2,560
Hogs........	765	870	821	672	741

PORTUGAL COMBATTING "BLUE TONGUE" DISEASE

Portugal has initiated a full-scale program to combat "blue tongue" disease of sheep. This disease reportedly caused the death of 40,000 Portugese sheep last year.

The Central Laboratory of Veterinary Pathology at Lisbon has manufactured 4 million doses of blue tongue vaccine. Through April this vaccine will be given to producers free of cost by local offices of the Director General of Livestock Services. Only vaccine manufactured by the Central Laboratory will be used. A veterinary officer will give to the owner of each vaccinated herd a certificate which will serve as a transit permit. Unless the owner has a vaccination certificate by May 1, he will not be able to take sheep to the market or to grazing areas.

It is hoped that the vaccination program will sharply reduce losses to sheep producers due to this disease. Portugal has 4 or 5 million sheep.

PANAMA PROHIBITS IMPORTS OF CHILLED OR FROZEN BEEF

Panama can no longer import chilled or frozen beef, according to a recent announcement by its Office of Price Control. Panama is eager to improve its livestock industry and to develop its domestic market. A recent commission established to study the industry reported that there was no exportable surplus of beef in the country. Prices received by producers are reported to be so low that producers do not find it profitable to ship cattle into Panama City for slaughter.

The United States has exported an annual average of 37,000 pounds of fresh and frozen beef and veal to Panama during the last 5 years.

KENYA REPORTS RARE TYPE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Livestock producers in Kenya, East Africa, are concerned over an outbreak of a rare type of foot-and-mouth disease, SAT 2. There is no vaccine to combat this form of the disease, and the Kenya Veterinary Department will find it difficult to control. Since the first outbreak in early February several new centers of infection have been confirmed. Foot-and-mouth disease in Kenya has previously been held in check by use of vaccines and slaughter.

CANADA REVISES FARROWING ESTIMATES UPWARD

Estimates of Canadian hog farrowings for the period December 1, 1956 to June 1, 1957 have been raised from 609,700 to 617,000. This is 8 percent more than estimates for the same season a year ago.

The rising standard of living and growth of population in Canada have combined to raise sharply the demand for pork products. Unusually high hog prices in Canada the past winter encouraged many breeders to increase production. During the week ending March 2, Grade A dressed hogs brought \$21.25 in Toronto. This was considerably over the \$20.52 brought by the dressed equivalent (75 percent yield) of choice 200-pound barrows in Chicago for the same period. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, February 4, 1957.)

NORTHERN RHODESIA IMPORTS MEAT FROM BECHUANALAND

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has authorized dealers in Northern Rhodesia to import about 14,000 beef carcasses from the Lobatsi slaughter plant in Bechuanaland this year. This is considerably less than the 30,000 beef carcasses provided for in the original plan. Northern Rhodesia, normally a deficit producer, is expected to import about 26,000 carcasses from Southern Rhodesia this year.

FIRST FLORIDA VALENCIAS ON U. K. MARKET

The first Florida Valencia oranges of the season appeared on the London market on April 3. The oranges were packed in half boxes and sold from $2.80 to $3.36.

AUSTRALIA INCREASES APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT CHARGES

A bill to increase to 2 pence per box the maximum export charge allowable under the Apple and Pear Export Charges Act has been introduced in the Australian legislature. Previously a charge not to exceed one Australian penny was levied on apples and pears to be exported. The proceeds are used to finance operation of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, which sets the levy.

In 1955 and 1956 the levy collected was 0.75 pence per bushel. Total revenue from it was £18,500 ($41,440). For the 1957 season the levy was increased to one penny per box and is expected to yield £20,000 ($44,800).

Everyone concerned is supporting the bill, which would give the Apple and Pear Marketing Board additional funds to maintain or perhaps expand its trade promotion program. Under the new bill the Board would be authorized to set the levy at any amount up to the proposed 2-pence maximum. The levy for the 1957 season is likely to be set at 1.5 pence, permitting a further increase if and when necessary.

MEXICAN STRAWBERRY CROP LOOKS GOOD

Preliminary forecasts for 1957 strawberry production in Mexico place the total crop at about 9,700 short tons, compared to 8,900 tons in 1956. The increase is largely due to increased acreage, 5,300 acres vs. 4,800 last year. Variable weather conditions to date have caused production increases in some areas and decreases in others, which tend to offset each other.

Frozen strawberry exports during 1957 are forecast at about 7,400 short tons, about the same as 1956. In 1956, exports accounted for 83 percent of the crop. With this year's larger crop exports are expected to be only 75 percent of total production. Supply in excess of exports moves domestically as fresh fruit and to preservers. The increased domestic supply this year will probably go to preservers; no material increase in fresh berry consumption is expected.

IRELAND REVOKES SPECIAL LEVY ON ORANGES

Ireland's Minister for Industry and Commerce has now issued the order revoking the special 37.5 percent ad valorem duty on oranges. The revocation became effective April 3, 1957 (see detailed story in Foreign Crops and Markets, April 15).

SPANISH DRIED APRICOT EXPORTS UP

Exports in calendar 1956 of dried apricots from Spain are estimated at 2,360 short tons, an increase of nearly 700 tons over the 1,670 tons exported in 1955. About half the 1956 exports went to Scandinavian countries. Commercial dried apricot production in Spain for 1956 is estimated at 8,300 tons. Consumption within Spain accounted for the rest of the pack by the end of 1956.

NEW ZEALAND TO ISSUE IMPORT LICENSES FOR U.S. DRIED APRICOTS

The New Zealand Customs Department will issue import licenses in 1957 for 100 to 125 tons of dried apricots from the United States.

The New Zealand Government determined the import quota by assigning to the United States 25 percent of the estimated 1956 volume of all dried apricot imports. Dried apricots from the United States have not been on the New Zealand market the past few seasons.

FRUIT CROPS IN U.K. GET EARLY START

Because of a mild winter and high March temperatures fruit blossoms in the United Kingdom are the earliest in many years, according to the April 1 report of the British Ministry of Agriculture.

Early varieties of plums and cherries bloomed in Kent in the first 2 weeks of March, and some early pears by the middle of the month. By the end of March early varieties of apples in the southeast were in the green bud stage.

THOMPSON SEEDLESS RAISINS POPULAR IN NEW ZEALAND

Because of their quality and adaptability to bakery machinery, Thompson Seedless raisins produced in the United States continue to enjoy a high degree of popularity among New Zealand bakers and biscuit makers. In issuing import licenses, the New Zealand Department of Industries and Commerce distinguishes between industrial and table raisin varieties.

During the first 10 months of 1956, New Zealand imported nearly 600,000 pounds of Thompson Seedless raisins from the United States. Licensing officials believe that 1957 imports from the United States will be slightly more. One import license has already been granted for 500,000 pounds. No change is foreseen in the policy which leaves New Zealand importers dependent upon non-dollar countries for table raisin needs.

IRISH WHEAT FARMERS RECEIVED $2.03 PER BUSHEL IN 1956-57

Irish farmers received an average price of 67s. 6d. per barrel of 280 pounds ($2.03 per bushel) for their 1956-57 wheat crop. The Irish Government fixes the prices which grain dealers, flour mills, and other wheat processors must pay wheat growers. These are not minimum prices. Higher or lower prices cannot be paid.

The government fixed a 1956-57 price for each of 4 grades of wheat for each of 3 periods into which the year is divided. The grades were: 63 pounds per bushel or over; 60 pounds or over but less than 63; 57 pounds or over but less than 60; and less than 57 pounds. The 3 periods are August-November, the month of December, and January-July. Prices rise from each period to the next to encourage orderly marketing. The average fixed price for the 4 grades in the 3 periods was 71s. per barrell ($2.13 per bushel).

Prices, however, are subject to deductions for screenings in excess of 4 percent and moisture in excess of 26 percent, and during each period the farmers marketed varying total quantities of the 4 grades of wheat. The net result was an actual (or weighted) average price of $2.03 per bushel. Owing to excessive rainfall the 1956-57 wheat crop was lower in quality than usual. The average price of wheat delivered to the mills, including costs of transportation, handling, drying, commissions, and grain sacks, plus the loss in weight in the grain from drying, was £35, 12s. per long ton ($2.67 per bushel).

Although the Irish Government has fixed 1957-58 prices for 11 grades of wheat for each of the same 3 periods, these prices average the same as the 1956-57 prices for only 4 grades in these periods -- 71s. per barrel, or $2.13 per bushel. A new regulation for 1957-58 provides for a bonus to growers of 5s. per barrel (15 cents per bushel) if the moisture content is 22 percent or less, and 2s. 6d. per barrel (7.5 cents per bushel) if the moisture content is above 22 percent but not over 25 percent.

Farmers may sell wheat only to licensed grain dealers, licensed distillers, and licensed millers or their licensed agents.

U.S. 1956-57 WHEAT EXPORTS ESTIMATED AT 130 MILLION BUSHELS ABOVE YEAR AGO

Total United States exports of wheat and flour in 1956-57 are expected to reach 475 million bushels, 35 percent more than in 1955-56 and only 29 million bushels less than the record high of 504 million bushels exported in 1948-49. The chief reasons for this increase are larger shipments to Europe and Asia. Exports to Europe during the first 8 months of 1956-57 were 141 percent above July-February shipments of 1955-56, while exports to Asian countries were up 128 percent. Exports have also been greater to some countries in South America.

VENEZUELA STILL IN DEFICIT VEGETABLE OIL POSITION

Venezuela continues to be a deficit country in the production of vegetable oils and oilseeds and, except for sesame, there is little expansion. New varieties of sesame seed and prompt returns from a relatively low investment are encouraging expanded sesame production. Output of palm oil and palm kernel oil is being slowly increased by the one grower of these palms.

Copra is the leading local source of vegetable oil, and production in 1956 is estimated at 16,500 short tons (10,400 tons of coconut oil equivalent). Sesame seed production is estimated at 13,200 tons (6,200 tons oil). About 8,500 tons of cottonseed were produced in 1956, but only a part of this was crushed.

OIL-BEARING MATERIALS AND VEGETABLE OILS: Venezuela, imports by kind, 1955 and January-November 1956

Item	1955	1956 (Jan. - Nov.)
	Short tons	Short tons
Oil-bearing materials:		
Copra	29,471	21,936
Sesame seed	13,414	3,225
Peanuts	43	4,282
Sunflower seed	2	3
Flaxseed	3	9
Unspecified oilseeds	7,441	6,639
Vegetable oils:		
Olive	791	1,120
Coconut	1	44
Palm	197	160
Linseed, crude	105	131
Linseed, boiled	649	444
Castor	126	73
Unspecified inedible	532	281

Source: American Embassy, Caracas.

Copra is the major oil-bearing material imported, with over 80 percent coming from the Philippine Republic. In addition, sesame seed, peanuts, and a number of other oilseeds are imported from various countries.

Major edible oils imported into Venezuela are olive and palm oils; Linseed, castor, and various other inedible vegetable oils are also imported. About 85 percent of the castor oil and other inedible vegetable oils are imported from the United States. The Netherlands furnishes the entire supply of palm oil, while most of the olive oil is imported direct from the Mediterranean area. Linseed oil is imported from Canada, England, the Netherlands, and the United States, and minor quantities of other oils are imported from various sources.

INDIA REPORTS COMMITMENTS FOR CASTOR OIL EXPORTS TO EAST EUROPE

India's shippers recently have finalized "sizable" commitments for the export of castor oil to unidentified Eastern European countries, according to trade reports from Bombay. Reports also indicate that Indian firms are exploring markets for other oils, and for oilcakes, in these countries.

INDONESIAN COPRA EXPORTS UP IN 1956

Indonesian copra exports during 1956 are reported at 256,322 long tons, net weight, an increase of 11 percent from the 230,692 tons exported in 1955. Shipments to most European countries were substantially higher than in the previous year. Exports to Red China were almost 3 times the 1955 tonnage. In contrast to the previous 2 years no shipments were made to Poland or Czechoslovakia.

COPRA: Indonesian net exports, by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1953-56

Country	Average 1935-39	1953 1/	1954 1/	1955 1/2/	1956 1/2/
	- - - Long tons - - -				
Mexico	12,614	-	-	-	-
United States	3,909	-	-	-	-
Belgium-Luxembourg	8,053	-	984	500	2,500
Czechoslovakia	4,896	-	1,968	4,921	-
Denmark	72,375	1,581	2,968	3,000	19,983
France	12,748	16,313	6,352	2,935	11,749
Italy	23,103	-	1,976	-	-
Netherlands	133,841	98,217	65,292	20,050	39,447
Norway	31,810	17,147	1,984	5,500	3,000
Poland	1,422	-	492	5,413	-
Sweden	6,886	19,745	22,809	11,999	3,500
Switzerland	17	-	-	299	1,000
United Kingdom	412	-	984	-	-
West Germany	3/ 64,674	66,882	43,977	32,744	19,944
China	2,865	-	4,921	13,103	36,408
Japan	6,180	16,435	34,053	33,364	32,433
Malaya	10,226	9,799	25,479	26,110	25,391
Singapore	107,285	51,783	67,364	67,670	60,967
Others	4,069	1,202	8,412	3,084	-
Total	507,385	299,104	290,015	230,692	256,322

1/ Does not include unrecorded shipments to Malaya. 2/ Preliminary.
3/ Total Germany.

Compiled from official and unofficial statistics.

(Continued on following page)

Copra exports from Indonesia in 1955 and 1956, by months and quarters were as follows (net long tons):

	First Quarter	
	1955	1956
January	14,211	7,146
February	19,526	8,114
March	16,931	10,953
Sub-total	50,668	26,213

	Second Quarter	
	1955	1956
April	18,223	20,052
May	20,163	23,068
June	17,220	14,832
Sub-total	106,274	84,165

	Third Quarter	
	1955	1956
July	27,057	24,056
August	29,936	29,998
September	19,548	26,056
Sub-total	182,815	164,275

	Fourth Quarter	
	1955	1956
October	19,947	23,908
November	15,924	39,995
December	12,006	28,144
Total	230,692	256,322

Copra exports for January 1957 are reported unofficially at 20,411 long tons, gross weight, while coconut oil and copra cake exports totaled 1,743 tons and 9,735 tons, respectively.

Palm kernel exports in January were 3,380 short tons and exports of palm oil, 7,608 short tons.

PAKISTAN'S RAPE AND MUSTARD ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

The first estimate for the 1956-57 rape and mustard acreage in Pakistan is for 1,883,000 acres, slightly lower than the first 1955-56 estimate of 1,919,000 acres. The final revised estimate for the 1955-56 crop was 1,902,000 acres.

Rape and mustard acreage in West Pakistan has expanded as a result of favorable weather at planting time and increased oilseed prices. East Pakistan, has reduced acreage of these crops enough to lower the overall area planted. A Grow-More-Food Campaign has diverted oilseed acreage to food crops. Unfavorable weather at planting time also has caused acreage reductions in East Pakistan.

SPAIN INCREASES RETURNS TO CITRUS EXPORTERS

Spain's Ministry of Commerce has advanced oranges and tangerines from Group III to Group IV in a revision of the lists of commodities under the government's multiple exchange rate program.

This action means that citrus exporters will now receive 33.835 pesetas return for each U.S. dollar earned in exports. Previously, the return was 30.425 pesetas per dollar.

Citrus exports are normally Spain's greatest single source of foreign exchange.

POTATO CROP LARGE IN ARGENTINA

Argentine potato production is estimated at 34 million cwt. for 1956. This is an increase of almost 13 percent over the previous year, and the production has been exceeded in but 2 of the past 9 years. Argentina's potato exports were 1,697,000 cwt., three-fifths of which went to neighboring Uruguay. Average production is only 44 cwt. per acre.

SOUTH AFRICAN DECIDUOUS FRUIT EXPORTS RISE

The Union of South Africa's 1956-57 deciduous fruit export season is now at its peak, with total exports forecast at over 80,000 short tons, compared with 76,000 tons in 1955-56. Apples account for most of the increase, grapes being second in volume.

Unusually early crops resulted in congestion of storage and shipping facilities, which have been short in the Union for sometime. To help clear this congestion the South African Marketing Board prohibited deliveries of fruit to the Cape Town docks for a period of 5 weeks beginning in early March. The situation caused abnormal diversion of fruit from the export market to the domestic market.

The Deciduous Fruit Board of the Union of South Africa is the principal exporter of freestone peaches, nectarines, plums, prunes, grapes, apples, and pears. It is estimated that the Board controls 40 percent of peaches, 70 percent of plums, 80 percent of apples, 85 percent of pears, 90 percent of apricots, and 98 percent of grapes and prunes produced in the Union. The Board's data thus provide the best available basis for an estimate of export crops.

The Union of South Africa's Deciduous Fruit Board's handlings for the export years ended July 31, 1954-57:

	1954/55 Revised	1955/56 Estimate	1956/57 Forecast
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Apricots	795	475	342
Peaches and nectarines 1/	854	1,096	733
Plums and prunes 2/	1,918	2,277	1,684
Pears	27,200	26,000	25,000
Grapes	19,150	21,650	22,500
Apples	19,860	25,000	30,000
Total	69,777	76,498	80,259

1/ Nectarines are only a small part of these totals. 2/ Prunes are only a small part of the totals.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS IN RUNNING BALES

United States cotton exports in February 1957 amounted to 808,000 running bales. Total exports in the 7-month period, August-February 1956-57 were 4,598,000 running bales. Comparable figures in 500 pound bales were published in last week's Foreign Crops and Markets.

INDIA'S COTTON EXPORTS DROP SHARPLY

India's cotton exports of 33,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-November 1956 represented a sharp drop from the 244,000 bales exported in the same months of 1955. The recent low level is attributed primarily to a lower crop in 1955-56, reduced stocks at the beginning of the 1956-57 season, and increasing cotton consumption. Prior to 1955-56, India had been a net cotton importer following partition from Pakistan in 1947, and apparently will revert to that position in 1956-57.

Total cotton exports in 1955-56 were 552,000 bales, slightly higher than cotton imports, which were 524,000 bales. Exported cotton is composed of the shorter staple Asiatic types, while imports are principally of the long and extra long staple varieties used in fine cotton fabrics and thread.

Exports of cotton are limited by quota each year and only specified varieties of short staples are eligible for license. The amount included to date in export quotas for 1956-57 is 400,000 Indian bales (equal to 327,000 bales of 500 pounds). Exports of Assams and Comillas, Zoda cotton, pickings, and sweepings, are not subject to restriction in the 1956-57 season.

Lower exports to all countries were registered in the period under review. Quantities exported in August-November 1956, with comparable 1955 figures in parentheses, were: Japan 24,000 bales (114,000); United Kingdom 3,000 (21,000); Belgium none (19,000); Italy none (12,000); and the Netherlands 500 (8,000).

India's cotton imports in August-November 1956 were 127,000 bales, the same quantity as a year earlier, although there were shifts in sources of supply. Reduced imports were shown from Egypt, Kenya, and the Sudan, while those from the United States and Tanganyika were increased. Quantities imported in August-November 1956, with comparable 1955 figures in parentheses, were: United States 41,000 bales (2,000); Kenya 37,000 (45,000); Sudan 23,000 (35,000); Tanganyika 12,000 (1,000); and Egypt 6,000 (40,000).

Cotton production in India is estimated at 4,265,000 bales for the 1956-57 crop, an increase of 7 percent over the 1955-56 crop of 4,000,000 bales. Much of the increase in the 1956-57 crop is reported to be in the long and medium staples. Acreage for 1956-57 is estimated by trade sources as about the same as the 20,230,000 acres for 1955-56.

Cotton consumption in India, both indigenous and imported, reached a record figure of 4,265,000 bales in 1955-56. This was 4 percent higher than consumption of 4,110,000 bales in 1954-55. These figures include an annual consumption of 220,000 bales in home and non-mill industries. Mill consumption in August-December 1956 was 1,752,000 bales, 2 percent higher than consumption of 1,722,000 bales a year earlier.

India's cotton stocks on August 1, 1956, were estimated at 2,085,000 bales, 12 percent less than stocks of 2,380,000 bales on August 1, 1955.

Cotton prices in India fluctuated considerably during the latter months of 1956, followed by steady advances in January and February, and a generally firm tone in March and April. The export tax on Bengal Desi was increased December 1, 1956, from 2.66 cents per pound to 5.33 cents. The tax on all other exportable varieties remained at 2.66 cents per pound.

Spot quotations at Bombay, April 4, 1957, not including export tax, were: Jarilla, Fine, 25/32 inch, 21.44 cents per pound; Vijay, Fine, 27/32 inch, 25.84 cents; and Bengal, Fine, 17.71 cents. Comparable prices of these varieties on January 10, 1957, were: Jarilla, Fine, 25/32 inch, 19.53 cents per pound; Vijay, Fine, 13/16 inch, 23.21 cents; and Bengal, Fine, 17.74 cents. The staple length in the Vijay base contract was changed about March 14 to 27/32 inch.

AUSTRALIA IMPORTS MORE U. S. COTTON

Australia's cotton imports of 38,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-December 1956 included a larger share of United States cotton than in the same months of 1955. Mexico was the other principal supplier, with smaller quantities from Brazil and Pakistan. Imports from the United States in August-December 1956 were 19,000 bales or 50 percent of the total, compared with 12,000 bales and 38 percent a year earlier. Total cotton imports in August-December 1955 were 32,000 bales.

COTTON: Australia, imports by country of origin, average 1939-43, annual 1953-55, and August-December 1955 and 1956

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				August-December	
	1939-43 1/	1953	1954	1955	1955	1956
	1,000 bales					
Argentina	2/	1	3/	0	0	2/
Brazil	2	2	12	3/	3/	3
Egypt	5	10	1	1	3/	2/
India	4/ 28	5	1	3	1	2/
Mexico	2/	2/	2/	23	8	11
Pakistan	4/	34	18	20	9	2
Peru	3/	1	1	3/	3/	3/
United States	13	38	54	33	12	19
Other countries	8	1	1	1	2	3
Total	56	92	88	81	32	38

1/ Fiscal year average. 2/ If any, included with other countries.
3/ Less than 500 bales. 4/ Pakistan included with India.

Source: Department of Trade and Customs.

Cotton production in Australia provides less than 5 percent of mill requirements, although the government continues its measures to increase production. A guaranteed price to growers of 14 pence (13.06 U.S. cents) per pound of seed cotton is maintained through the payment of a cotton bounty. Australian spinners pay only world prices for locally produced cotton. The difference between the price paid by the spinner and the support price is made up by the bounty.

The net return to growers, including the bounty payment, for the 1953-54 season was 13.46 cents per pound of seed cotton, or 35.29 cents per pound of lint cotton, including the value of the seed. The return for the 1954-55 season was 13.33 cents and 36.00 cents, respectively. The Commonwealth bounty included in the returns for these 2 seasons was 1.91 cents and 4.14 cents per pound of lint cotton.

All Australian cotton production is in Queensland, principally in the southern and central areas. Production in 1956-57 is estimated at 3,000 bales, the same as in 1955-56, but lower than the 1954-55 crop of 4,000 bales.

Australia's cotton consumption during August-July 1955-56 was estimated at 86,000 bales, compared with 90,000 in 1954-55 and 85,000 in 1953-54. The fine count cotton yarns and fine cotton fabrics used in Australia are generally imported. Most of the raw cotton consumed by mills is for the production of medium to coarse count yarns, cordage, sewing cottons and fabrics such as canvas, denims and sheeting. About 2,000 bales annually are used by woolen mills in woolen fabrics, by bedding manufacturers, and for other purposes. In 1956 there were about 96 factories engaged in cotton spinning and weaving; they employed about 10,000 persons.

Practically all stocks of cotton in Australia are held by the cotton mills. Stocks on August 1, 1956, were estimated at 17,000 bales, compared with 19,000 a year earlier.

U.S. RICE EXPORTS MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL

United States rice exports in February of 1,797,000 bags (100 pounds) in terms of milled rice exceeded January exports by 688,000 bags and were 3.5 times higher than exports in February 1956.

Exports to India of 856,000 bags accounted for 48 percent of the total, with the next larger amount, 478,000 bags, going to Cuba.

During the August-February period of the current marketing year, rice exports of nearly 15 million bags were more than double those of the same period in the year before. Shipments to Asia amounted to 73 percent of total exports and were more than 3 times as high as in the comparable period of 1955-56. Principal amounts went to Indonesia, 4,872,000 bags; Pakistan, 3,221,000 bags; and India, 2,301,000 bags. Exports to Japan, however, declined sharply.

Shipments to Europe and the Western Hemisphere were larger than a year ago. The following tables give a breakdown of United States rice exports.

RICE: United States exports, by classification and country of destination, February 1957 1/

Country of destination	Rough		Milled		Total (in terms of milled)
	Unmilled	In terms of milled 2/	Not over 25% whole	Over 25% whole	
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Western Hemisphere:					
Canada	11,081	7,203	150	23,873	31,226
Mexico	0	0	0	49	49
Panama	930	604	0	0	604
Panama Canal Zone	0	0	0	1,831	1,831
Bahamas	0	0	0	501	501
Cuba	9,030	5,870	0	472,600	478,470
Jamaica	0	0	0	1,294	1,294
Haiti	0	0	0	44,291	44,291
Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	3,882	3,882
Venezuela	22,748	14,786	0	0	14,786
Peru	0	0	0	50	50
Total	43,789	28,463	150	548,371	576,984
Europe:					
Sweden	0	0	0	1,156	1,156
Belgium-Luxembourg	0	0	5,644	55,092	60,736
Western Germany	0	0	0	165	165
Switzerland	0	0	0	4,185	4,185
Italy	0	0	0	240	240
Trieste	0	0	0	20	20
Greece	0	0	0	3,270	3,270
Total	0	0	5,644	64,128	69,772
Asia:					
Israel	0	0	0	256	256
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	24,794	24,794
Bahrein	0	0	0	1,880	1,880
India	0	0	0	855,549	855,549
Pakistan	0	0	0	137,079	137,079
Indonesia	0	0	0	33,366	33,366
Korean Republic	0	0	0	84,584	84,584
Japan	0	0	0	510	510
Nonsei and Nonpo Islands	0	0	0	2,186	2,186
Total	0	0	0	1,140,204	1,140,204
Trust territory of the Pacific	0	0	200	5,277	5,477
Liberia	0	0	0	4,480	4,480
Morocco	285	185	0	0	185
World total	44,074	28,648	5,994	1,762,460	1,797,102

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Rough rice converted at 65%.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

RICE: United States exports, in terms of milled, to specified countries, February 1957, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-February		February	
	1954-55	1955-56	1955-56	1956-57 2/	1956	1957 2/
	1,000 Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.	1,000 Cwt.
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	560	397	301	221	22	31
British Honduras	33	35	25	8	4	0
British West Indies	5	8	6	84	3/	2
Cuba	3,391	2,927	2,004	2,621	187	478
El Salvador	3/	44	2	0	0	0
Haiti	124	5	2	55	3/	44
Netherlands Antilles	38	28	18	23	1	4
Bolivia	0	191	153	176	0	0
Colombia	205	13	10	1	0	0
Venezuela	84	32	16	19	1	15
Surinam	0	0	0	20	0	0
Other countries	35	148	27	50	3	3
Total	4,475	3,828	2,564	3,278	218	577
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	460	298	152	496	0	61
France	3/	78	3/	1	0	0
Austria	23	5	0	2	0	0
Western Germany	38	53	27	2	0	3/
Netherlands	71	31	5	50	0	0
Sweden	72	8	8	13	1	1
Switzerland	53	22	17	56	3/	4
Other countries	97	7	3	24	1	4
Total	814	502	212	644	2	70
Asia:						
India	0	215	215	2,301	10	856
Indochina	0	220	220	10	0	0
Indonesia	0	516	0	4,872	0	33
Japan	4,125	2,383	2,381	92	1	1
Korean Republic	3/	1	0	95	0	85
Pakistan	0	2,653	0	3,221	0	137
Philippine Republic	25	28	22	20	0	0
Saudi Arabia	136	75	63	78	9	25
Turkey	0	3	0	218	0	0
Other countries	11	35	13	16	6	3
Total	4,297	6,129	2,914	10,923	26	1,140
Total Oceania	19	39	21	29	4	5
Liberia	219	276	118	92	18	5
French West Africa	0	625	416	0	216	0
Other Africa	10	21	14	9	0	3/
Destination not specified	14	26	12	7	2	0
World total	9,848	4/ 11,446	6,271	5/ 14,982	486	1,797

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 cwt. 4/ Does not include an estimated 700,000 cwt which is the milled equivalent of ground rough rice sold by Commodity Credit Corporation for export as animal feed; nor 966,639 cwt. of supplementary exports by welfare organizations. 5/ Does not include 1,141,731 cwt. exported by welfare organizations during August to November 1956, the latest period for which data are available.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

PHILIPPINE COPRA EXPORTS IN 1957 EXPECTED TO BE HIGH

Philippine exports of copra and coconut oil in 1957 may exceed the record high level of 714,505 long tons oil equivalent exported in 1956. This forecast is based on the increased production which may be expected barring unfavorable weather. Prices of copra and coconut oil are expected to remain relatively stable.

Philippine exports of copra in March 1957 declined 9 percent from the previous month while coconut oil exports were up 4 percent. Copra prices in mid-April remainded about the same as in recent months.

Combined exports of copra and coconut oil in March, in terms of oil, totaled 52,337 long tons, 8 percent below the previous month and 4 percent under those of March 1956. Cumulative shipments of copra and coconut oil, however, during the first 3 months of 1957 were 172,095 tons, oil basis, 5 percent more than the 163,938 tons exported in January-March 1956.

Copra exports in March, totaling 71,994 long tons, again, as in recent months, went largely to the United States and the Netherlands. By destination and quantity they were as follows: United States--17,608 tons (Atlantic Coast--2,750, Pacific Coast--14,858); Canada--500: Colombia--1,000; Venezuela--1,500; Denmark--1,000; Belgium--1,000; Germany--4,634; Netherlands --35,351; Sweden--5,000; Norway--4,401. January-March shipments of 235,386 tons were up 6 percent from the 221,067 tons exported in the corresponding period of 1956.

Coconut oil exports totaled 6,981 long tons in March. Shipments were: United States--3,682 (Atlantic Coast); the Netherlands--3,299. Cumulative shipments for the first 3 months were 23,802 tons against 24,666 tons exported in January-March 1956.

Prices in the last 3 months have been relatively constant. The mid-April copra export price remainded at about $146.00 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast, the same as in mid-March and Mid-February (mid-January $155.00). Local buying prices were reported at 18.00 to 26.50 pesos per 100 kilograms $91.44 to $134.63 per long ton) resecada in Manila and producing areas.

Exports of copra and coconut oil in the fourth quarter of 1956 totaled 184,304 long tons oil equivalent against 200,815 tons shipped in the third quarter.

About 57 percent of total Philippine copra exports in 1956 went to Europe, with the Netherlands, Germany, and Sweden as principal buyers. The United States took only about 30 percent of the total copra shipments but accounted for 83 percent of total coconut oil shipments.

Exports of copra and coconut oil in 1956, with averages for 1935-39, and revised data for 1950-55, are given in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1.--COPRA: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1950-56 1/

Country	Average 1935-39	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 2/
	Long tons							
AMERICA:								
United States	206,801	432,151	376,116	295,348	309,496	289,445	311,733	292,473
Canada	0	21,324	22,431	25,749	8,050	16,099	5,200	7,907
Colombia	0	17,785	24,178	28,485	22,016	37,319	68,787	65,450
Mexico	7,260	0	0	0	0	0	150	-
Venezuela	0	22,451	14,999	15,832	29,894	31,255	24,256	22,065
ASIA:								
Japan	1,047	28,941	7,255	22,092	497	0	3,587	-
Israel	0	8,980	12,523	23,251	11,620	2,300	8,240	8,950
EUROPE:								
Belgium	10	34,578	66,259	42,828	25,887	24,859	11,141	15,000
Denmark	6,025	0	21,599	24,845	35,257	47,997	36,848	25,850
France	24,589	5,657	15,423	2,000	0	0	400	-
Western Germany 3/	7,309	2,893	6,770	9,209	18,810	47,997	46,904	57,075
Italy	4,079	23,637	31,602	14,729	9,894	16,799	16,921	15,750
Netherlands	28,415	30,303	90,186	47,547	72,416	176,164	189,125	249,334
Norway	91	14,674	11,039	10,524	10,550	27,543	20,499	4,500
Sweden	4,183	8,000	17,349	10,008	3,750	7,367	30,139	44,576
Switzerland	0	29,788	13,979	63,246	27,212	15,699	15,649	-
United Kingdom	80	0	0	1,800	1,000	4,000	5,000	-
OTHERS	9,949	6,290	28,193	12,190	3,860	8,131	6,589	4/155,104
Total	299,838	687,452	759,901	649,683	590,209	752,974	801,168	964,034

1/ Annual figures 1950-55 revised--now based on official statistics. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Total Germany. 4/ Includes 119,991 tons to "Europe unspecified," 1,395 tons to Spain, 10,835 tons to South America unspecified," and 15,575 tons to "Germany and the Netherlands."

Source: Philippine Bureau of the Census and Statistics 1956 data--Philippine trade sources

Table 2.--COCONUT OIL: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination, average 1935-39, annual 1950-56 1/

Country	Average 1935-39	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 2/
	Long tons							
America:								
United States	155,351	64,777	43,624	52,851	58,597	63,270	65,610	88,485
Canada	1,885	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cuba	290	0	0	0	0	300	600	949
Africa:								
British Africa	437	2,675	4,617	5,128	505	638	0	0
Europe:								
Belgium	0	0	3,209	4,252	0	0	0	105
Western Germany 3/	660	0	2,825	354	0	0	458	2,905
Italy	9	0	3,134	5,342	0	0	0	--
Netherlands	727	0	7,030	3,836	0	500	1,853	3,721
Switzerland	0	1,270	6,680	6,730	485	0	0	--
Other	452	718	404	969	0	0	634 4/	10,731
Others:	1,868	868	4,155	4,053	483	177	1,102	268
Total	161,679	70,308	75,678	83,515	60,070	64,885	70,257	107,164

1/ Annual figures 1950-55 revised--now based on official statistics. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Total Germany.
4/ Unspecified.

Source: Philippine Bureau of the Census and Statistics.
1956 data--Philippine trade sources.

Table 3.--COPRA AND COCONUT OIL: Derived production in Philippine Republic in terms of copra equivalent, average 1947-51, annual 1950-56 1/

	Average 1947-51	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 2/
	Long tons							
Exports								
Copra	719,606	687,452	759,901	649,683	590,209	752,974	801,168	964,034
Coconut oil as copra 3/	87,843	111,600	120,124	132,563	95,349	102,992	111,519	170,101
Total as copra	807,449	799,052	880,025	782,246	685,558	855,966	912,687	1,134,135
Domestic utilization								
Coconut oil as copra 3/	89,035	111,763	116,536	119,254	124,713	139,868	146,889	162,273
Total production as copra 4/	896,484	910,815	996,561	901,500	810,271	995,834	1,059,576	1,296,408

1/ 1950-55 trade figures revised - now based on official statistics. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Computed at 63 percent oil extraction rate. 4/ Excluding coconut used in making of home-made oil and native culinary preparations.

Source: Philippine trade sources (Years 1947-49 and 1956 export data, and 1947-56 domestic utilization data).
Philippine Bureau of the Census and Statistics (1950-55 export data).

Philippine copra production in 1956, excluding coconuts used in home-made preparations, is estimated at 1,296,400 long tons, one-fifth larger than 1955 production (Table 3). The increase was due largely to favorable weather conditions.

The quality of Philippine copra, while improving, still leaves much to be desired. It has been difficult to enforce the law requiring the first buyer of copra to use a moisture meter because many small buyers of copra cannot afford to purchase the meters. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, July 2, 1956.)

Total copra crush for oil in 1956 showed an increase of close to 30 percent over 1955. Larger opra crushings for oil were stimulated by strong foreign demand and continued increase in domestic uses. About one-half of the total oil production was consumed locally, about 60 percent for non-food uses such as soap manufacture, and about 40 percent for edible products such as margarine, shortening, and cooking oil. Production of desiccated coconut at 43,499 tons showed a slight decrease from the previous year. Ceylon's effective competition in the United States market is probably responsible for the decrease. Copra cake and meal production in 1956 is estimated at 106,360 long tons, an increase of about one-fourth from the revised estimate of 84,477 tons in 1955. Exports of cake and meal, at 99,633 tons, also increased one-fourth from the previous year.

Aside from copra, other oil-bearing materials produced in the Philippines are peanuts, soybeans, lumbang nuts, and kapok seeds. Peanut production, shelled basis, in 1956 is estimated at 19,732 short tons, about the same as in 1955. Soybean production in 1956 is unofficially estimated at 13,200 bushels, compared with 6,600 bushels in 1955; and production of lumbang nuts increased from 345 to 465 short tons.

CANADA'S JULY-MARCH WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS ESTIMATED AT 220 MILLION BUSHELS

Canada's exports of wheat and flour during the first 9 months of 1956-57 are estimated at approximately 220 million bushels, compared with 180 million during the same period a year ago. The total for the first 9 months of this year includes official customs returns for July - January and export clearances for February and March.

Official customs returns showing destinations are available only through January. Adding to them the February exports reported by the Canadian Board of Grain Commissioners, the principal destinations, in millions of bushels with comparisons for a year earlier in parentheses, were: United Kingdon, 71.5 (64.8); West Germany, 31.5 (13.9); Japan, 23.7 (19.5); Belgium-Luxembourg, 11.5 (8.3); Netherlands, 9.3 (4.7); Switzerland, 6.3 (3.1); United States, 5.0 (5.5); Czechoslovakia, 4.4 (none); Philippine Republic, 4.2 (3.4); U.S.S.R., 4.1 (none); Norway, 3.7 (2.4); and Poland, 2.6 (6.2).

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Canadian exports, July-January 1956-57 and 1957-58

Destination	July-January 1955-56			July-January 1956-57		
	Wheat	Flour	Total	Wheat	Flour	Total
	(Thousands of bushels, grain equivalent)					
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	3,998	419	4,417	3,939	852	4,791
Central America	58	1,212	1,270	67	836	903
British West Indies	20	2,975	2,995	13	3,041	3,054
Cuba	228	363	591	1	232	233
Colombia	-	158	158	-	88	88
Venezuela	54	2,271	2,325	54	2,156	2,210
Ecuador	825	-	825	294	-	294
Peru	209	25	234	2,489	15	2,504
Others	4	934	938	-	958	958
Total	5,396	8,357	13,753	6,857	8,178	15,035
Europe:						
Norway	2,136	-	2,136	3,435	-	3,435
United Kingdom	50,435	5,987	56,422	57,953	7,255	65,208
Ireland	1,792	-	1,792	2,583	-	2,583
Netherlands	2,862	1	2,863	8,935	5	8,940
Belgium-Luxembourg	7,308	92	7,400	9,162	333	9,495
France	-	-	-	1,471	-	1,471
West Germany	11,053	207	11,260	30,416	1/	30,416
Austria	1,739	-	1,739	753	-	753
Czechoslovakia	-	-	-	4,371	-	4,371
Switzerland	2,226	-	2,226	5,960	1/	5,960
Poland	4,857	-	4,857	2,599	-	2,599
Russia	-	34	34	4,127	-	4,127
Italy	1,858	166	2,024	2,770	3	2,773
Others	1,409	130	1,539	1,891	176	2,067
Total	87,675	6,617	94,292	136,426	7,772	144,198
Asia:						
Pakistan	-	-	-	1,008	1/	1,008
Philippines	-	2,869	2,869	-	3,620	3,620
Japan	17,292	444	17,736	21,224	584	21,808
Others	1,642	1,026	2,668	1,500	1,237	2,737
Total	18,934	4,339	23,273	23,732	5,441	29,173
Africa:						
British West Africa	-	797	797	-	821	821
Union of South Africa	2,062	-	2,062	1,002	-	1,002
Others	330	619	949	237	362	599
Total	2,392	1,416	3,808	1,239	1,183	2,422
Oceania:	-	70	70	-	43	43
World total	114,397	20,799	135,196	168,254	22,617	190,871

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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